Claims

1.   A method for establishing in a cellular network a new packet-switched dedicated channel carrying speech samples,

–in which method communication occurs through a dedicated channel comprising
5   both an uplink and at least one downlink and, in the core network interconnecting them, a server function or server controlling the flow of data packets, and

–in which method after the last speech sample packet sent uplink, the dedicated channel used is kept up for a time of such duration that a new uplink can be established, utilizing at least one downlink, from at least one terminal connected to
10   said downlink.

2.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the keeping up of the dedicated channel comprises
- a step in which the server determines when the last speech sample packet is sent,
- a step in which the server sends at least one post-speech packet downlink to the
15   receiving terminals,
- a step in which it is determined whether a terminal taking part in the session needs a new uplink, and
- a step in which said uplink is established.

3.   The method according to claim 2 wherein the receiving terminal additionally
20   signals the user of the terminal after receiving the last speech sample packet.

4.   The method according to claim 2 wherein said post-speech packets are sent downlink 5 to 10 times at intervals of 500 ms at most.

5.   The method according to claim 4 wherein after the last post-speech packet the downlink used is released after a delay specific to the cellular network.

25   6.   The method according to claim 4 wherein post-speech packets are also sent to the terminal that used the uplink.

7.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the dedicated channel used is kept up in such a manner that the sending terminal appends at least one post-speech packet to the last speech packet sent by it.

30   8.   A server function or server in a cellular network, where said server is after receiving the last speech sample packet in an uplink direction arranged to prolong

the existence of downlinks for a time of such duration that at least one new uplink can be established from a receiving terminal.

9. The server according to claim 8, which is arranged to prolong the existence of a downlink by sending post-speech packets to at least one terminal connected to the session.

10. The server server according to claim 9, which is arranged to send 5 to 10 post-speech packets at intervals of 500 ms at most.

11. The server according to claim 10, which is arranged to include in post-speech packets information intended for the user of the terminal.

12. A cellular terminal, which comprises a means for recognizing post-speech packets.

13. The terminal according to claim 12, which additionally comprises a means for performing signaling after the last received speech sample packet.

14. The terminal according to claim 12, which additionally comprises a means for appending post-speech packets to speech sample packets.

15. A cellular network, which comprises a means for maintaining a dedicated channel between a sending terminal and a receiving terminal for a time of such duration that a new dedicated channel can be established utilizing said earlier dedicated channel.

16. The cellular network according to claim 15, where said dedicated channel in the cellular network is maintained by sending post-speech packets, after the last speech packet transmitted, to at least one terminal connected to the dedicated channel.

17. The cellular network according to claim 16, where an element for sending post-speech packets is a server operating in the network.

18. The cellular network according to claim 17, where the server sending post-speech packets is a router server.

19. The cellular network according to claim 16, where an element for sending post-speech packets is a terminal ending its transmission.

20. The cellular network according to claim 16 wherein the dedicated channel is maintained by sending 5 to 10 post-speech packets at intervals of 500 ms.

21. The cellular network according to claim 20 wherein after the last post-speech packet said earlier dedicated channel is arranged to be released after a delay specific to the network.

22. Software means for continuing the existence of a dedicated channel in a packet-switched cellular network, which software means is used to implement
- a step to determine when the last speech sample packet is sent,
- a step to send at least one post-speech packet to receiving terminals,
- a step to determine whether a terminal taking part in the session needs a new uplink, and
- a step to establish said uplink.

23. Software means according to claim 22 stored on a data storage medium in order to load the software means to an appropriate data processing device.